

SHANGHAI  
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# INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear SAS Community,

Pablo Casal, a world class musician, teacher, and thinker in the entertainment industry, articulated the moral mission of educators and parents alike: "Your mission is to make the world a better place for all our children are, first and foremost, safe. Safety is a precondition for children's wellbeing and success. When children are safe, they are more likely to learn, to grow, and to thrive. At Shanghai American School, our children's safety is our highest priority."

Shanghai American School, in keeping with our mission, vision, and core values, has a Child Protection Policy that guides our staff and families in matters related to health, safety, and care of children in attendance at our school. By enrolling our child at SAS, we agree to work in partnership with the school and abide by the policies adopted by the SAS Board of Trustees.

The SAS Child Protection Policy defines the standard by which all children should be treated with dignity and respect, at all times. The policy is based on international law and on the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Children, of which China is a signatory. Along with the UN Convention, SAS follows Chinese law. Under Chinese law, school must report all cases of domestic abuse to local law enforcement agencies. We wish to draw our attention to the UN article regarding the rights of children that guides our policy and practice:

## Article 19 - Protection from abuse and neglect

# 1. DUTY OF CARE

Shanghai American School is committed to building and maintaining a culture of respect, care, and safety for all members of our community. Our primary responsibility as SAS is to maintain a safe school environment for our entire community, which is free from abuse of any kind. We believe that school is a special and important role in society as a protector of children, where all children in their care are afforded a safe and secure learning in which to grow and develop. Educators have a professional and ethical obligation to identify children who are in need of help and protection. It is the duty of every educator to take steps to ensure that the child and family are able to receive the services needed to remedy any situation that can cause child abuse or neglect.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), child abuse consists of “all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

Shanghai American School endorses America’s International Convention on the Rights of the Child, adheres to the major provisions of the Chinese government, and seeks

in an emotionally abusive, neglectful, or harmful environment, the child's physical, emotional, or behavioral needs are not being met, or the child is in danger of physical or emotional harm.

**Neglect** is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological need, likely to result in the child's health or development. Neglect may include a parent or caregiver failing to:

Provide adequate food, clothing, and/or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);

Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;

Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inappropriate caregivers);

Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

Neglect may also include neglect of, or reliance on, a child's basic emotional needs.

**Emotional Abuse** is a pattern of actions that characterize a child's emotional need, failure to provide psychological care, or permitting the child to use alcohol or other drugs. Specific examples may include verbal humiliation, refusing to acknowledge presence of child, inattention of priority for non-specific reasons, isolation, etc.

## Reporting

### WHEN TO REPORT?

#### Responsible Reporting

The SAS Child Safeguarding Policy is for all SAS community members. Holders of a role should be notified, supported, and/or disclosed, to minimize the harm of child abuse in our community and to ensure a prompt and effective response.

When a reportable suspicion of a child abuse or neglect, SAS community members will report this suspicion to the designated or principal. All reports are confidential.

### TO WHOM DO YOU REPORT?

All reports are directed to the designated or designated principal as soon as possible. After the initial report, the designated team will immediately share the report with the Child Safeguarding Team (CST).

Designated → report to designated or principal → report to CST → inquire & follow up with CST.

If the designated individual is a school employee, the report may be made directly to the Head of Campus and/or Head of School who will lead the inquiry team.

## FAMILY CONSULTATION

The nature of a family consultation will vary, depending on the individual report and circumstances.

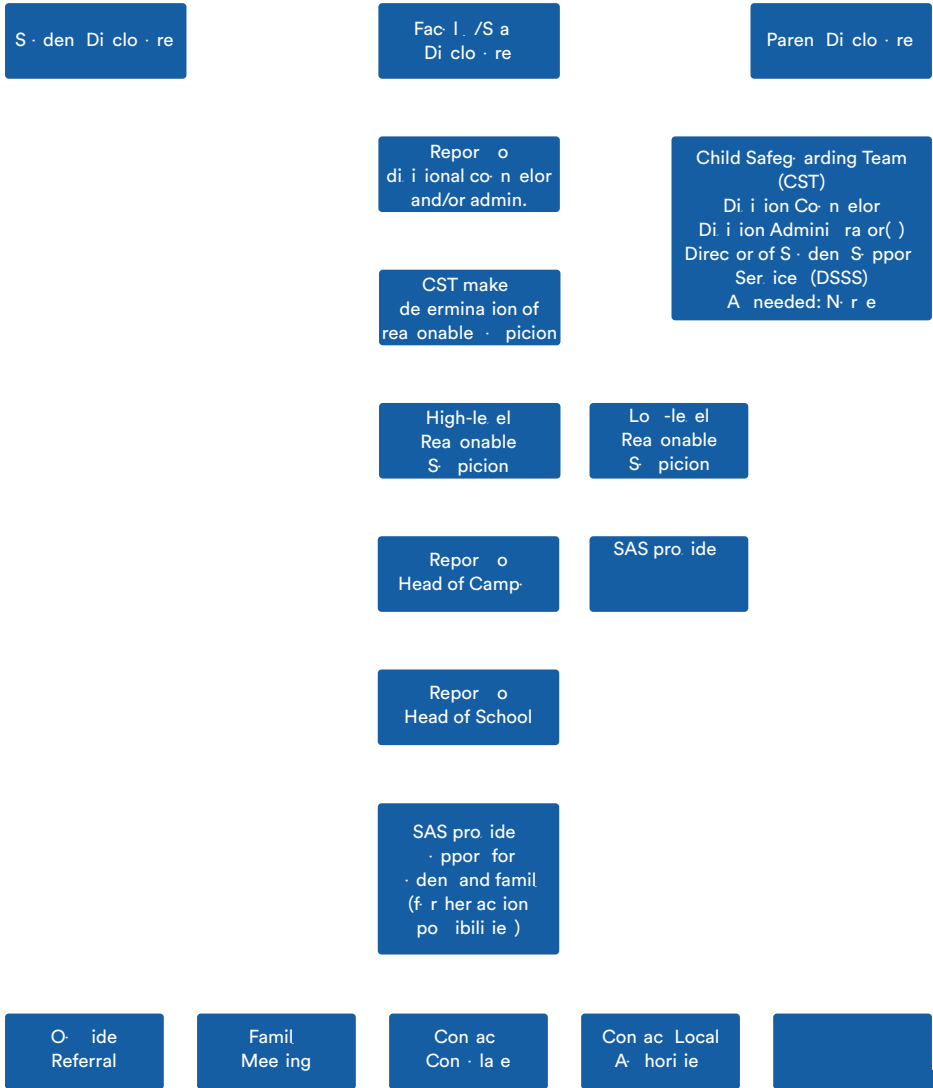
## POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

The primary focus is on connecting the child and/or family to resources and material support. Potential outcomes are all related to the bottom of the pyramid.



Artwork by Hannah J. G. '26

# FLOWCHART



**Note**  
 In all instances there will be a follow-up with the reporter by a member of the Child Safeguarding Team (CST).  
 In instances where a suspicion or allegation of abuse involves an employee(s) of SAS, the reporter should be made direct to the Head of Campus, who leads the CST.

### 3. STUDENT EDUCATION

Research shows that age-appropriate personal safety and abuse education and prevention programs for children are effective. When these are based on the most current research.

- Student protection education aims to assist children in developing skills to:
  - Recognize abuse and tell a trusted adult about it;
  - Understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching;
  - Understand the value of keeping themselves safe.

Given the importance of child protection, all children at SAS participate in this curriculum. We encourage parents/caregivers to seek further clarification if required. Depending on grade level, children will receive personal safety and abuse education in their classroom, health class, home-base or advisory block.

### 4. "SAFE SPACE FOR ALL" GUIDELINES

Students who have been harassed are perceived not to conform to prevailing social and gender norms, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTQIA+) are more vulnerable to discrimination, harassment and/or bullying in school. Furthermore, creating a supportive environment for diverse children improves educational outcomes for all children, not just those who may identify as LGBTQIA+. A safe SAS has specific guidelines to support this commitment in the Child Safeguarding manual.

### 5. TEMPORARY GUARDIANSHIP

Neglect includes failure to provide proper adult guardianship for a leaving child in a temporary home for an extended period of time. One possible indicator of this kind of abuse is that both parents or legal guardians are absent from Shanghai for a period of 24 hours or greater, in which an appropriate provision is made for child care, and a temporary guardian named.

SAS requires one parent or guardian to reside full-time with the children. Should parents/guardians leave the country for any reason, then they are responsible for informing the school of all appropriate contact details for Temporary Guardians living with the parent or guardian. Temporary Change of Guardianship can be provided through the Parent School. This is expected to be completed prior to parents/guardians leaving Shanghai.

**SHANGHAI AMERICAN**